

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AID/NESA:POECHSLI (DRAFT)

L/PM:JHMICHEL

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NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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O 271656Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282264

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL

REF.: BEIRUT 15095

1. AID AUTHORIZATION BILL HAS BEEN PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES, AND WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL BE SIGNED INTO LAW. FULL APPROPRIATION BILL WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY NEW CONGRESS WHICH CONVENES IN JANUARY. CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY PROVIDES 25 MILLION DOLLARS FOR MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND. WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS AUTHORIZATION BILL AND CRA ARE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM IS TO GIVE YOU BACKGROUND ON TWO IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF BILL WHICH AFFECT SYRIA.

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2. FIRST, AUTHORIZATION BILL CONTAINS PROVISION UNDER WHICH NO SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUNDS MAY BE USED UNTIL 30 CALENDAR DAYS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF REPORT BY AID ADMINISTRATOR DETAILING PROPOSED USE; AT ANY TIME WITHIN THAT 30-DAY PERIOD, PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS IN QUESTION MAY BE PREVENTED THROUGH PASSAGE OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.

3. YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE FOREGOING WITH SARG AND TO PROPOSE VISIT BY AID TEAM DESCRIBED IN STATE 278548. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SARG KNOW OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR 30-DAY NOTICE TO CONGRESS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT SYRIANS ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THIS POINT AT A LATER DATE.

4. FYI - FUNDS PROVIDED BY CRA AND UNOBLIGATED ON FEBRUARY 28 CAN OF COURSE BE INCLUDED IN A REGULAR APPROPRIATION OR ANOTHER CRA. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBLIGATE THESE FUNDS BY FEBRUARY 28 IF POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THESE FUNDS ARE PRESERVED AND TO SHOW THE ABILITY TO OBLIGATE FUNDS QUICKLY IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATION OF THE FULL ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS AUTHORIZED. END FYI.

5. SECOND ISSUE, CLOSELY RELATED TO FIRST, IS QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES RESTRICTING EMIGRATION. AUTHORIZATION BILL INCLUDES FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "IT IS FURTHER THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NONE OF THE FUNDS AUTHORIZED BY THIS ACT SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ANY NATION WHICH DENIES ITS CITIZENS THE RIGHT OR OPPORTUNITY TO EMIGRATE."

6. ABOVE STATEMENT WAS ADDED TO SECTION OF AUTHORIZATION BILL CONTAINING EXPRESSION OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY BY HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHICH EXPLAINED IT IN ITS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "THE SECTION ALSO STATES THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NO AID SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY NATION WHICH DENIES ITS CITIZENS THE RIGHT OR OPPORTUNITY TO EMIGRATE. THIS POLICY WOULD APPLY TO ANY CURRENT OR POTENTIAL RECIPIENT OF AID FUNDS. THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH WILL NOT ALLOW OVER 4,000 SYRIAN JEWS TO

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LEAVE THAT COUNTRY, WILL BE PUT ON NOTICE BY THIS SENSE OF CONGRESS STATEMENT THAT ITS POLICIES COULD RESULT IN DENIAL OF U.S. AID.

THE COMMITTEE EXPECTS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO MAKE THIS CONGRESSIONAL EXPRESSION OF INTENT CLEAR TO THOSE NATIONS WHICH PLACE SEVERE AND UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION, AND HAVE HOPES OF RECEIVING AID FROM THE

UNITED STATES.

THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH AFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF EMIGRATION FOR CITIZENS OF EVERY NATION, COULD BE USED AS A STANDARD IN EVALUATING THE REASONABLENESS OF EMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

7. SENSE OF CONGRESS PROVISION IN BILL'S STATEMENT OF POLICY DOES NOT OPERATE AS MANDATORY PROHIBITION AGAINST ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA. HOWEVER, SYRIAN EMIGRATION POLICY IS CERTAIN TO BE RAISED AS AN ISSUE DURING 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD. ANY ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR SYRIA FROM SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND WILL BE SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY CONGRESS IN LIGHT OF IMMIGRATION ISSUE.

8. AT THIS STAGE, INFORMATION IN PARAS 5-7 ABOVE ON EMIGRATION IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO BRING THIS PROVISION TO ATTENTION OF SARG, BUT HOW THIS DONE IS MATTER OF GREAT DELICACY. YOU SHOULD MAKE NO APPROACH UNTIL YOU RECEIVE SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL BE SENT SHORTLY. BROWN

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